

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-18, 21 and 22 are pending in the subject application. Claims 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are withdrawn from consideration.

By this amendment, claims 1, 9 and 21 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14-18 and 22 are solely amended to depend from one of allowed claims 11 and 12 instead of cancelled claim 1 and/or to correct minor informalities contained therein, and new dependent claim 23 is added. Support for the feature recited in new dependent claim 23 may be at least found, e.g., in FIG. 7 and paragraph [0052] of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the amendments do not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration, and thus, applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

Claims 11 and 12 are independent, which have both been allowed. All of remaining claims 2-8, 10, 14-18, 22 and 23 depend from one of allowed independent claims 11 and 12.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of JP 5-315293 ("the JP '293 reference"), U.S. Patent No. 6,626,236 to Bandoh et al. ("the Bandoh et al. reference"), U.S. Patent No. 3,543,839 to Shlosinger ("the Shlosinger reference") and optionally JP 8-29080 ("the JP '080 reference"); rejected claims 4, 5 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the JP '293 reference, the Bandoh et al. reference, the Shlosinger reference and optionally the JP '080 reference and further in view of JP 2-126049 ("the JP '049

reference”); rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 16, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the JP ‘293 reference, the Bando et al. reference, JP 5-99580 (“the JP ‘580 reference”) and optionally the JP ‘080 reference; and allowed claims 11-13.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 11-13. As discussed above, all of remaining claims 2-8, 10, 14-18, 22 and 23 now directly or indirectly depend from one of allowed independent claims 11 and 12, and are allowable over the applied art for at least the respective reasons for which each of independent claims 11 and 12 are allowable.

C. Asserted Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 21

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the JP ‘293 reference, the Bando et al. reference, the Shlosinger reference and optionally the JP ‘080 reference.

The rejection of claims 1, 9 and 21 is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims, and the rejection of remaining claims 2, 3, 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the JP ‘293 reference, the Bando et al. reference, the Shlosinger reference and optionally the JP ‘080 reference is rendered moot at least because each of claims 2, 3, 10 and 16 now directly or indirectly depends from allowed claim 12. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

D. Asserted Obviousness Rejection of Claims 4, 5, and 22

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 5 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the JP ‘293 reference, the

Bandoh et al. reference, the Shlosinger reference and optionally the JP '080 reference in further view of the JP '049 reference.

As discussed above, each of claims 4, 5 and 22 now directly or indirectly depends from allowed claim 12, and thus, is allowable over the applied art for at least the reasons which claim 12 is allowable. Thus, the rejection of claims 4, 5 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of the JP '293 reference, the Bandoh et al. reference, the Shlosinger reference, the JP '080 reference and the JP '049 reference is rendered moot. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

E. Asserted Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 16, 21 and 22

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 16, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the JP '293 reference, the Bandoh et al. reference, the JP '580 reference and optionally the JP '080 reference. The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of claims 1, 9 and 21 is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims, and the rejection of remaining claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the JP '293 reference, the Bandoh et al. reference, the JP '580 reference and optionally the JP '080 reference is rendered moot at least because each of claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 22 now directly or indirectly depends from allowed claim 12. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

F. Rejoinder of Non-Elected Withdrawn Claims 6-8, 14, 15, 17 and 18

As each of claims 6-8, 14, 15, 17 and 18 now directly or indirectly depends from one of allowed independent claims 11 and 12, applicants request rejoinder and allowance of non-elected withdrawn claims 6-8, 14, 15, 17 and 18.


G. Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,
LEE & MORSE, P.C.

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Attachment:
One-Month Petition for Extension of Time

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